

Weekly Field Memo – May 7, 2014

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NEWS & UPDATES:

Vermont Celebrates National Teacher Appreciation Week: May 5-9, 2014

Audience: All

National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9, 2014) has been an annual staple in Vermont since 1964, and this year Vermont-NEA and the Vermont Agency of Education are asking Vermonters to participate in a fun social media campaign to honor the state's more than 8,000 teachers using the #ThankATeacher hashtag. [Click here](#) to read the press release. [Click here](#) to watch interviews with Vermont educators.

Contact: Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-828-3154 or angela.ross@state.vt.us

Balanced Accountability Model Conversations

Audience: Principals, Assistant Principals

The State Board of Education approved new [Education Quality Standards](#) (EQS) for all VT schools. The Board tasked the AOE to develop a new accountability model for VT that reflects our commitment to continuous improvement of learning for our students, and provides public assurance that the work of the school enables students to achieve proficiency with respect to student outcomes defined in the EQS. The AOE & VPA are partnering to facilitate a series of conversations for principals and assistant principals about the development of the Balanced Accountability Model. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Contacts: Chris Case, AOE Project Manager, 802-479-1179 or chris.case@state.vt.us; Ken Page, VPA, 802-229-0547 or kpage@vpaonline.org

Call for League of Innovative Schools' Applications

Audience: Superintendents, Principals

Deadline: May 23, 2014

We are currently accepting applications from high schools interested in joining the League of Innovative Schools (LIS). The LIS is a member organization supported by the [New England Secondary School Consortium](#) (NESSC) and the AOE to provide educators with professional development, networking opportunities, support and resources as they work to personalize learning for all students. Learn more about the LIS here: <http://bit.ly/QbybDR> and here: <http://education.vermont.gov/nessc>.

Contact: Meg Powden, Lead to the VT LIS, 802-479-1338 or meg.powden@state.vt.us

AOE Communication

Audience: All

Our press releases, field memos, calendar of events, and more are online: <http://bit.ly/11ajrtH>. View our strategic plan here: <http://bit.ly/1cZbMBP>. Connect with the AOE on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).
Contact: Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-479-1240 or angela.ross@state.vt.us

GRANTS, RFPs & REIMBURSEMENT:

Estimated Final Worksheet A's and B's for FY2014

Audience: Superintendents, Business Managers, Special Education Directors

Deadline: May 21, 2014

The AOE will be accepting estimated final Worksheet A's and B's from supervisory unions and school districts through Wednesday, May 21, 2014. This is an optional submission if supervisory unions and school districts have incurred or expect to incur additional special education costs that qualify for State-Placed Student Reimbursement (3205) or Extraordinary Reimbursement (3203) for FY-2014 and wish to receive reimbursement prior to June 30. [Click here](#) to learn more and to [read the memo](#).

Contact: Nicole Tousignant, Special Ed. Finance Manager, 802-479-1137 or nicole.tousignant@state.vt.us

HEALTH & WELLNESS:

Dance Endorsement Draft

Audience: Dance Teachers, School Administrators

In April, a group of dance educators and educator preparation program representatives reviewed a draft of the dance endorsement at a focus group. A second draft was then created in response to this dedicated group's conversations and recommendations. We are interested in hearing your feedback on the knowledge and performance standards, as well as the additional requirements of the dance endorsement. Review the draft via this [link](#) and forward your comments to [Mary Beth McNulty](#).

Contact: Mary Beth McNulty, Coordinator of Professional Standards at marybeth.mcnulty@state.vt.us

Linking Health & Learning

Audience: All

Zip through this spring issue of the e-bulletin to find a new application for the Vermont Community of Health Educators (VCHE), resources for national physical education week, Intergenerational Walk & Roll to School day, and Way to Go! week. The professional development calendar for May offers many opportunities to connect and learn. Find also a new, lengthy section on summer courses. Last, a new round of funding for the Vermont Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program and a grant for Dairy in the Classroom are available. [Click here](#) to read the May e-bulletin. [Click here](#) to read past e-bulletins.

Contact: Lindsay Simpson, Physical Education Coordinator, 802-479-1476 or lindsay.simpson@state.vt.us

Vermont Munch Times

Audience: All

The May 1, 2014 issue is now online: <http://bit.ly/1s3tyII>. Topics include USDA Non-Discrimination statement, Harvest of the Month: Leafy Greens, save the date: Summer Institute, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Grant announcement, and more. View past issues here: <http://bit.ly/19mOFA6>.

Contact: Marianna Charalabopoulos, Nutrition, 802-479-1254 or marianna.charalabopoulos@state.vt.us

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS:

Spring Census/SECT Training

Audience: Registrars, Administrative Support, Student Information Systems Support Persons

Registrars, Administrative Support, Student Information Systems Support Persons or any school personnel who are responsible for completing the Spring Student Census/SECT are encouraged to attend one of the following sessions. Space is limited, so please register immediately:

- May 19 | 10am – 12:30pm | St. Albans Town Elementary (St. Albans)
- May 21 | 10am – 12:30pm | Green Mountain UHS (Chester)
- May 23 | 10am – 12:30pm | Pavilion Auditorium (Montpelier)

Questions about the schedule can be directed to Glenn Bouchard at glenn.bouchard@state.vt.us.

Contact: IT Help Desk, 802-479-1044

Science Safety Workshop for Teachers, Administrators and Facility Operations Managers

Audience: All

Safe Science: Implementing a Chemical Management and Lab Safety Program in Your School, is a FREE workshop via the Vermont School Science Lab Safety Team at the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust Office (VSBIT) on **May 28, 2014** from 8:45 AM to noon. [Click here](#) to learn more and register.

Contacts: Gail Hall, Middle-High School Science, 802-479-1284 or gail.hall@state.vt.us; Kathy Renfrew, K-5 Science, 802-479-1448 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us

2014 Transition and Career Planning Conference

Audience: High School Special Educators, School Counselors, Teachers, Technical Center Coordinators, Administrators, Agency Professionals working in schools, School-to-Work Professionals, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors

Join your colleagues for the 9th annual FREE transition and career planning conference on Wednesday, **June 4, 2014** at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, VT. This conference promises to be the best yet! Registration fills up very fast so don't miss out. Learn more here: www.vsac.org/careerconference.

Contact: John Spinney, Post-Secondary Transition Specialist, 802-479-1495 or john.spinney@state.vt.us

Summer Opportunity for Girls in Technology

Audience: High School Teachers and Guidance Counselors

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) has spaces available for girls at the [Governor's Institute on Information Technology and Digital Media](#). Please spread the word to your students who are passionate about learning and want a life-changing summer experience! The IT Institute will be held at Vermont Technical College from **June 21-29, 2014**. [Click here](#) to learn more – scholarships available!

Contact: Courtney Perron, GIV, 802-865-4448

Access for Success: Academic Instruction and Assessment for Students with Significant Disabilities

Audience: General Educators, Special Educators, Administrators, Parents, Related Service Providers

Deadline: June 30, 2014

This free, three-day conference (**August 18-20, 2014**) will provide educators with information and resources related to instruction and assessment of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Focused on the standards-based learning targets and curriculum-connected instruction, participants will add to their toolbox of interventions and materials that support these goals. Learn more here: <http://goo.gl/DjIX7d>. Register here: <http://goo.gl/EPHsuL>.

Contact: Cindy Moran, Alternate Assessment Coordinator, 802-479-1432 or cindy.moran@state.vt.us

STANDARDS & ASSESSMENTS:

Elaborations of the Practice Standards (K-5)

Audience: K-5 Mathematics Teachers, Coaches, Curriculum Directors, Principals

Illustrative Mathematics, with the assistance of Mary Knuck, Deborah Schifter, and Susan Jo Russell, has been working on developing grade band elaborations of the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Here is a [draft](#) of the K-5 document. You can join the discussion and offer feedback on this draft on Bill McCallum's blog at <http://commoncoretools.me/>.

Contact: Tracy Watterson, Elementary Mathematics, 802-479-1353 or tracy.watterson@state.vt.us



Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Resources on the AOE Website

Audience: All

Check out our Common Core website, we add new resources on a weekly basis: <http://bit.ly/1m9D7b4>. [Click here](#) to learn more about CCSS ELA. [Click here](#) to learn more about CCSS Mathematics.

Contacts: Pat Fitzsimmons, Common Core Coordinator, pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us; Lori Dolezal, Elementary Literacy Coordinator, lori.dolezal@state.vt.us; Kris Breen, Secondary Literacy Coordinator, kris.breen@state.vt.us; Tracy Watterson, Math Coordinator, tracy.watterson@state.vt.us



Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)

Audience: All

[Click here](#) to learn more about DLM. [Click here](#) to read past FAQs.

Contact: Cindy Moran, Alternate Assessment Coordinator, 802-479-1432 or cindy.moran@state.vt.us

2014 NECAP Science Test Webinar

Audience: Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Science Test Administrators

This one hour [NECAP Science Webinar](#) features staff from Measured Progress presenting detailed information about the administration of the NECAP Science Assessment. Watch the webinar [here](#).

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo, Assessment Consultant, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us



Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): FAQ

Audience: All

What is Science and Engineering Practice #1: Asking Questions and Defining Problems? [Click here](#) to read the answer. [Click here](#) to learn more about science in Vermont.

Contacts: Gail Hall, Middle-High School Science, 802-479-1284 or gail.hall@state.vt.us; Kathy Renfrew, K-5 Science, 802-479-1448 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us



Smarter Balanced assessment: FAQ

Audience: All

What do the Smarter Balanced assessments cover? [Click here](#) to read the answer. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Smarter Balanced assessment, and Vermont's Field Test.

Contacts: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us; MaryAnn Minardo, Teacher Engagement Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

OTHER EDUCATION NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS:

Vermont Center for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Consultant Program

Audience: Special Ed. Administrators & Teachers, 504 Coordinators, Principals

The Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VCDHH) Regional Consultants provides an array of specialized services (direct instruction and consultation) to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students, ages birth through 21 years their families and educational teams. [Click here](#) for more information about this program and a link to the 2014/15 Service Description and Fee Schedule.

Contact: Terry Keegan, VCDHH, 802-254-3929 or tkeegan@vcdhh.org

2014 VTrans Funding available for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

Audience: All

Deadline: June 27, 2014

The intent of the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is to improve access and safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians through the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects. For a copy of the 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Guide and Application, visit the VTrans website:

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/>, and look under the Spotlight heading or go to: <http://goo.gl/XNceXm>.

Contact: Jon Kaplan, VTrans, 802-828-0059 or jon.kaplan@state.vt.us

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the Agency will still be sent. In addition, the VT-AOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Agency of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, at (802) 479-1240 or angela.ross@state.vt.us.

Sign up for the weekly field memo here: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html

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